

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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P R 141645Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2110
INFO USIA

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 1332

FOR CU/AF; AF/W FOR AMBASSADOR SMITH

USIA FOR IAA

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, IV
SUBJ: ENA PROJECT

1. IN REPLY TO FORMAL COMMUNICATION FROM GOIC MINISTER OF CIVIL SERVICE, PAO MET TUESDAY WITH ENA (NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ADMINISTRATION) DIRECTOR KAI BOGUINARD IN ORDER DISCUSS REQUEST FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM PREVIOUSLY RAISED INFORMALLY WITH BOTH AMBASSADOR SMITH AND PAO.

2. PROJECT, WHICH STRIKES US AS BEING EXTREMELY VALUABLE, IS ROUGHLY AS FOLLOWS:

A) ENA PROPOSES TO SEND FROM ONE TO THREE CANDIDATES EACH YEAR TO THE US TO DO SECOND YEAR OF "CYCLE SUPERIEUR".

B) ENA STUDENTS AT THIS LEVEL HAVE EITHER ONE OF TWO EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUNDS. IN ONE CASE, CANDIDATE WOULD HAVE COMPLETED HIS "LICENSE" IN LAW (WHICH INCLUDES POLITICAL SCIENCES), ECONOMICS OR LETTERS AT UNIVERSITY OF ABIDJAN, SUBSEQUENTLY PASSED A "CONCOURS" TO ENTER ENA AND HAVE COMPLETED ONE FULL YEAR OF HIGHEST LEVEL STUDIES AT ENA. ALTERNATELY, FOLLOWING BACCALAUREATE, CANDIDATE WOULD HAVE DONE TWO YEARS UNDERGRADUATE WORK AT ENA RESULTING IN "BREVET"; HAVE HAD TWO YEARS OF PRACTICAL

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EXPREIENCE IN VICIL SERVICE; HAVE APPED "CONCOURS" TO

TAKE "CCYCLE MOYEN SUPERIEUR" AT ENA, DONE A MINIMUM OF ANOTHER TWO YEARS OF PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN CIVIL SERVICE; AND SUBSEQUENTLY PASSED "CONCOURS" TO ENTER THE "CYCLE SUPERIEUR" AT ENA, OF WHICH HE WOULD HAVE COMPLETED FIRST YEAR.

C) ENA PROPOSES THAT CANDIDATES ENTER INTENSIVE ENGLISH COURSE EARLY IN JULY IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO TAKE UP FORMAL STUDIES FOR FULL ACADEMIC YEAR IN FOLLOWING FALL. CANDIDATES WOULD BE OF VARYING SPECIALTIES (E.G. BANKING, TAXES, CUSTOMS AND GENERAL FISCAL DISCIPLINES; ADMINISTRATION- BOTH GOVERNMENTAL AND PARA-STATEL COMPANIES; OR DIPLOMATIC). PARTICIPANTS WOULD NATURALLY NOT NEED ATTEND SAME ACADEMIC ESTABLISHMENT.

D) ACQUISITION OF MBA OR MPA DEGREE WOULD BE DESIRABLE BUT NOT NECESSARY SINCE EACH CANDIDATE HAVING CARRIED OUT US STUDIES IN SATISFACTORY MANNER WOULD BE ACCORDED THE HIGHEST DIPLOMA OF ENA.

3. AS TO FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS, GOIC WOULD PROVIDE ALL INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC TRAVEL PLUS SALARY OF CFA 70,000 (APPROX DOLS 320) PER MONTH AND PER DIEM COSTS OF CFA 35,000 (APPROX DOLS 160) PER MONTH.

4. USG INVOLVEMENT WOULD BASICALLY BE ORGANIZATION OF PROJECT, I.E. ARRANGING FOR PLACEMENT OF CANDIDATES IN INTENSIVE ENGLISH COURSE, AS WELL AS IN APPROPRIATE HIGH-LEVEL SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND/OR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION. ENA ALSO HOPES THAT USG COULD ARRANGE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS TO COVER TUITION COSTS. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, WHILE THERE IS POSSIBILITY OF GOIC PAYING THESE COSTS, ENA HOPES THAT EMBASSY WOULD PICK UP THIS PART OF EXPENSES, AS DOES THE GOF FOR IVORIAN STUDENTS IN FRANCE. ONLY QUALIFICATION THAT GOIC REQUEST OF ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS IS THAT, IN ADDITION TO BEING WELL RECOGNIZED ACADEMICALLY, THAT IT OFFER COURSES OF PRACTICAL STUDY AS OPPOSED TO THEORETICAL-E.G. THE CASE SYSTEM. ENA READY TO COMMENCE PROGRAM AS EARLY AS JULY 1975 FOR BEGINNING OF INTENSIVE ENGLISH COURSE IF THIS IS POSSIBLE, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE WARNED THEM THAT PLACEMENT AT SUCH SHORT NOTICE MIGHT WELL BE IMPOSSIBLE.

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5. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE THAT WE CURRENTLY ATTACH TO CU ACTIVITIES WITH MANAGERIAL EMPHASIS, WE FIND THIS A MOST INTRIGUING PROSPECT. GRADUATES OF ENA'S "CYCLE SUPERIEUR" ARE ALMOST AUTOMATICALLY DESTINED TO BE PART OF OUR FUTURE TARGET AUDIENCE. IN PAST, THIS EXTREMELY FORMATIVE PART OF ENA HIGH-LEVEL TRAINING HAS BEEN EXCLUSIVELY RESERVED FOR "CENTRES DE FORMATION" IN

FRANCE. THUS THIS AN UNEXPECTED AND MOST WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO SEND FUTURE IVORIAN LEADERS TO U.S. WHILE WE HOPE THAT UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS COULD COVER ALL TUITION FEES, SHOULD THIS NOT BE THE CASE, WE FEEL THAT A PORTION OF OUR CU FUNDS COULD WELL BE DEVOTED TO THIS USE, SHOULD AMBASSDOR SMITH CONCUR. (WHILE IT IS CERTAINLY CONCEIVABLE THAT GOIC MIGHT BE ABLE ASSUME THIS EXPENSE, IN VIEW OF THEIR ALREADY CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL BACKING FOR THIS PROJECT, WE FEEL IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR US TO HAVE SOME FINANCIAL INPUT).

6. ACTION REQUESTED: APPRECIATE CU'S SOONEST ADVISE ON FEASIBILITY THIS PROJECT, INCLUDING ESTIMATE OF TUITION COSTS PER STUDENT, IF ANY, AND WHETHER IT POSSIBLE START PROGRAM IN JULY 1975 IF SUITABLE CANDIDATES AVAILABLE. ALSO PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR SMITH ASAP FOR HIS EVALUATION.
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